From: Josh Lupkin
To: Devereux, Jan
Subject: Re: Cambridge should reject "Mass Against HP" resolution
Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018 8:58:19 AM

Well, thank you in this case for your timely response and the clarification. I guess communication is always the challenge, and in this case perhaps I was on the challenged side. Was there a sort of press release that I missed? Just because the organization "Mass against HP" claims that it "will submit a resolution to the city council on April 23rd, 2018" does not necessarily mean that a vote is in the offing at this time or anytime. I I think that perhaps some people's sensibilities are particularly acute after reports of the vote at Barnard College, etc.

It is interesting to think of the role of local and state governments, especially those with very large populations of people coming from diverse places with diverse political and social commitments, in trying to position themselves in matters of international importance. I was alive and in school during the final stage of anti-Apartheid activism, and did note that some people around me did take a certain satisfaction from passing a local resolution at the town of X or a certain university's student council. Such a large number of resolutions from representations of civil society across the world may have played a part in pressuring that government (I haven't studied the details), but on some level it existed as a sense of rhetorical solidarity with neighbors on a cause that was pretty unambiguous, where people did not want to be seen sitting on the sidelines of the most important issue of their time. The case before us is a very different one from that of South Africa in the late 20th century, and I know that many people join me in being very offended by the comparison. Important arguments can be made and have been made; it is not the up to the Cambridge City Council to bridge the growing gap between liberals and progressives, even as (in this case?) this conflict has come to your doorstep and is likely to stay there.

A large state government can make a difference with its spending power, and maybe even to some extent a smallish city with large visibility like Cambridge, though it should be extremely careful before alienating local citizens, dulling its central strategic goals and the effectiveness of its local policy outreach, simply in order to take sides and seize some sort of larger political relevance. But in the end I don't think that they, let alone student councils and city councils, should be spending their time on resolutions on international political conflicts over which they have no real control or influence.

I am sure that we agree that Cambridge needs to be for everyone, as far as possible. I remember seeing on youtube an episode of the 1960s TV quiz, "What's My Line" where one of the contestants was the mayor of Aurora, Colorado, Norma O. Walker. In a fairly obnoxious moment one of the panelists asked her about her politics, despite her insistence that she had been elected in a nonpartisan election. http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2016/11/51_years_ago_she_was_elected_m.html. I shared acutely her sense of annoyance at the distraction from the central mission.

I hope that, as you suggest, Cambridge is determined to use its resources (including its time) for productive endeavors that are achievable locally and bring us together.

Thanks for your time!

Sincerely,
Josh Lupkin
10 Akron Street

On Sun, Apr 22, 2018 at 7:04 AM, Devereux, Jan <jdevereux@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

There's been a good deal of misinformation about a boycott resolution from both sides. It's not before the Council and I doubt it will be, or that it would pass if it was.

Jan Devereux

Vice Mayor

Cambridge, MA

jdevereux@cambridgema.gov

For updates on City Council issues and events visit http://jandevereux.com/

All emails to and from this City address should be considered subject to Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

From: Josh Lupkin <joshua.lupkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2018 12:05:30 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Cambridge should reject "Mass Against HP" resolution

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to tell you that I urge you to vote agains the resolution to boycott Hewlett-Packard by the City of Cambridge. While broader human rights concerns, such as contracts with ICE, have been cited as a motivation for Massachusetts governments, it is hard to see this anything other than an action meant to build a boycott against Israel. If ICE is the main target, why is a boycott not being called for all companies that have relationships with ICE?

Cambridge neighbors, including me and my neighbors, communicate often about issues of inclusion and social justice and have been on the front lines of protest. This resolution does nothing to advance social justice or really help resolve anything in the middle east. It is not the place of the City of Cambridge to participate in boycott movements or make the city synonymous with getting in the way of technological innovation and openness. The City of Cambridge has many real concerns before it, notably issues of affordable housing on which many council members ran this past election. The relationship between people in Israel/Palestine is NOT an issue that concerns the City of Cambridge, and the path to peace will not not come by attempting to boycott American companies doing business in that part

of the world. It will not come from from a boycott that creates less contact and engagement, while fostering more animosity and anger.

I am deeply troubled by the fact that our City Council would take action on this without inviting testimony from experts on this complicated issue. It is a dishonest and non-transparent resolution and process. Have we learned nothing from the extreme thinking that has ushered in the deplorable situation in Washington DC in the current regime?

Please do not vote for this resolution. The commitment of Cambridge to social justice is for us to define holistically, from within Cambridge, without the imprimatur of outside groups who have a particular agenda or grievance. It is possible, and necessary, to concentrate on what Cambridge can do to live up to our best ideals by keeping the lines of communication open.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lupkin
10 Akron St. #311
Cambridge, MA 02138